

Helms-Burton and the pending legislation involving Libya and Iran come up, and if so, did you detect any change of views on the subjects?

President Clinton. We did not discuss that at all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:50 p.m. at the Prefecture. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this exchange could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on House of Representatives Action To Renew Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for China

June 27, 1996

I applaud the action of the House of Representatives to approve my decision to renew most-favored-nation trade status for China. The strong bipartisan show of support today is clear evidence that the American people agree that engagement, not isolation, is the best way to advance America's interests with China as elsewhere.

This positive vote helps us continue to engage China on a broad range of issues, including human rights, nonproliferation, trade, regional security, and relations with Taiwan. It enables us to continue to strengthen cooperation while firmly addressing our differences. It is a strong vote in favor of America's interests.

As I meet with the G-7 leaders, this vote is also a strong reaffirmation of America's continued leadership and engagement in the world.

I thank the House of Representatives for its overwhelming support and look forward to continuing our work with the Congress on a bipartisan China policy that advances America's interests.

Statement on the Death of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie

June 28, 1996

America lost one of its great spirits with the untimely passing of Mollie Beattie. Mol-

lie was a person who believed in the value of life and wildlife so deeply that she dedicated her many talents to preserving God's gracious Earth.

As the first woman director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mollie presided over a sea change in the administration of the Endangered Species Act by improving the way Government worked. She was the number one advocate for our national wildlife refuges, forever fighting to keep the system strong and growing.

Mollie Beattie's devotion to this Earth and its creatures was passionate, caring, and wise. There is a grace and natural beauty in America; because of Mollie our country has even more of that grace. Hillary and I send our prayers and sympathies to Mollie's family. We will miss her.

Statement on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

June 28, 1996

Today, the Chairman of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament's (CD) Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban tabled a compromise treaty text that reflects his best efforts to record agreement and resolve remaining issues. This action brings us one step closer to the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the Earth. I applaud this milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat and build a safer world.

American leaders since Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy have believed a comprehensive test ban would be a major stride in the international effort against nuclear proliferation and toward our ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. Over the past four decades, many world leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru of India and Harold Macmillan of Great Britain, along with citizens from around the globe have worked hard to achieve a CTBT. Today, such a treaty is within our reach.

As President, my most basic duty is to protect the security of the American people. That's why I have made reducing the nuclear threat one of my highest priorities.